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SOCIOECONOMIC LONGITUDINAL MONITORING PROJECT

First Year Progress Report

**VOL. V — PROFILE OF
KIMBALL COUNTY, NEBRASKA**

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SOCIOECONOMIC LONGITUDINAL MONITORING PROJECT

First Year Progress Report

VOL. V — PROFILE OF KIMBALL COUNTY, NEBRASKA

prepared

The Old West Regional Commission

by

The Center for Urban and Regional Analysis
Institute for Policy Research
University of Wyoming
Laramie, Wyoming

April 1977

The Old West Regional Commission is a Federal-State partnership designed to solve regional economic problems and stimulate orderly economic growth in the states of Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota and Wyoming. Established in 1972 under the Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965, it is one of seven identical Commissions throughout the country engaged in formulating and carrying out coordinated action plans for regional economic development.



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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Dwindling energy supplies in the United States have created new pressures for the development of mineral resources in the northern Great Plains. In some parts of this region the development of coal by strip mining and the construction and operation of coal-fired generating plants is a major new form of mineral development. When such developments occur in rural areas, the socioeconomic changes which occur can be significant and disruptive of orderly growth.

In attempts to minimize the undesirable effects of socioeconomic impact, various governmental and private organizations are sponsoring research aimed at projecting the changes which may occur in rural communities as a result of these developments. Accurate predictions allow residents to take steps to prevent, or at least reduce, deterioration in the local quality of life. For example, when future school enrollments are estimated, residents can choose to build schools which will accomodate the new students without an increase in average classroom size and a reduction in instructional quality. Although projection techniques have become more sophisticated, few researchers have monitored the actual socioeconomic changes which accompany energy development.

To learn more about the dynamics of rapid population growth and its effects, the Old West Regional Commission authorized the University of Wyoming to undertake a longitudinal monitoring study beginning in late 1975. This study monitors social and economic variables in two control (or nonimpacted) counties and in two counties experiencing rapid

growth from energy development. Examination of the Old West Region (Montana, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wyoming) revealed two areas which met the latter criterion; Platte County, Wyoming and McLean County, North Dakota. In both counties coal-fired electric-generating plants are under construction. Construction of a 1,000-megawatt plant in McLean County began in spring 1975. Ground was broken for a 1,500-megawatt plant in Platte County during fall 1976.

By using control counties which initially had social and economic characteristics similar to those of nonimpacted counties, the changes due primarily to mineral development are more readily identified. For this purpose, Kimball County, Nebraska was selected as the control for Platte County; and Wheatland County, Montana was matched with McLean County.

This county report describes the current economic and social structure of Kimball County, Nebraska. It is a supplement to the first annual report on this monitoring study for the Old West Regional Commission. The general report outlines results of the monitoring study to date, drawing comparisons between the four study counties. Both this county report and the annual general report will be expanded and updated by early 1978.

CHAPTER 2

METHODOLOGY

The socioeconomic profile contained in this appendix was compiled from a variety of sources including: residents and public officials of Kimball County and Kimball; state agency personnel in Lincoln, NE; personnel of the U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Labor Statistics; and, a host of published material.

The data gathering techniques used by the research team included a thorough literature review, extensive field work, and two mail surveys which were conducted in early fall 1976. The first mail survey was to all businesses in Kimball County, excluding farms and ranches. Of the 318 questionnaires mailed out, a total of 114 were completed and returned for a response rate of 36 percent. These responses form the basis for much of the description of the Kimball County economy. A copy of the questionnaire used in this survey is given as Attachment 1 to this report.

The second survey involved mailing a questionnaire to a sample of 488 of the approximately 1,852 households in Kimball County. The purpose of this was to tabulate basic demographic information, and the attitudes and perceptions of local residents concerning economic growth and community services. A total of 280 of these questionnaires were returned for a response rate of 57 percent. The information obtained from this survey was used to form a description of public service needs in Kimball County. A copy of the questionnaire used in this survey is given as Attachment 2 to this report.

In the chapters which follow, an attempt is made to give a brief historical perspective and then describe current socioeconomic conditions in Kimball County. Whenever possible, data sources have been identified by footnotes to the tables or text. The footnote "University of Wyoming Estimates" has been used to denote information based upon the mail surveys or field work, for which no other sources are applicable.

CHAPTER 3

A HISTORICAL OVERVIEW OF KIMBALL COUNTY

Kimball County, Nebraska, established in 1888, is located in the extreme western part of the state. It is one of the counties that makes up what is known as the Nebraska Panhandle. Kimball County is bordered by Wyoming on the west, Colorado on the south, Cheyenne County on the east, and Banner County on the north (See Figure 3-1). The county was named after T. L. Kimball, a Union Pacific Railroad Vice President.¹

The elevation of Kimball County ranges from 4,800 feet to 5,300 feet. The mean annual temperature is 47.5° F and mean annual rainfall is 16 inches, but varies greatly from year to year. The county includes 953 square miles consisting mainly of moderately rolling plain, which in its natural state was covered with short, thick grasses. Lodgepole Creek, one of the main tributaries of the South Platte River, runs easterly through the center of the county. The federal government owns 12.7 percent of the land, the state owns 6.6 percent and the rest, 80.7 percent, is privately owned. The main towns are Kimball, Bushnell, and Dix.

There is evidence that a native culture existed in the western part of Nebraska 10,000 to 12,000 years ago. This archaeological find is known as the Folsom Culture as it was first reported from a site near Folsom, N.M. The people were mainly nomadic Indians, who hunted the

¹The Nebraska State Historical Society, Origin of Nebraska Place-names, (1938).

last surviving mammals of the glacial period: giant bison; musk ox; and mammoth.²

The Indians in this part of Nebraska remained nomadic hunters, roaming the area between the North and South Forks of the Platte River. They depended on the buffalo who in this area fed in the valley of Lodgepole Creek. At times the Sioux could also be found there.³

In 1819, Major S. H. Long explored the South Platte Valley to the river's source. He reported that due to the scarcity of water and trees the valley was "almost wholly unfit for cultivation" or habitation of any sort. This was the beginning of the "Great Desert" myth, the idea that the Nebraska Panhandle was nothing but a desert. For the next 50 years this idea was generally accepted.⁴

The first easterners to settle permanently in the Nebraska Panhandle were mainly interested in raising cattle. The first large herd came in 1869 and was owned by Edward Creighton of Omaha.⁵ Land that had previously supported the buffalo and antelope now fed the ranches' cattle. Winters were usually mild and the terrain often provided natural shelter in the form of ravines, draws, and washouts.⁶ In 1867, the Union Pacific Railroad's main line west of Omaha was completed through the center of what is now Kimball County. This gave ranchers transportation to eastern markets.

²Federal Writers Project, Nebraska, New York: Hastings House, (1939), pp. 26-27.

³Federal Writers Project, Nebraska, p. 27.

⁴Nebraska, p. 50.

⁵History of Nebraska, 1880. (1882).

⁶Nebraska, p. 60.

The railroad was an aid to the cattlemen but it was also one of the main factors in changing the area from predominantly raising cattle to farming. To maintain a profit the railroad needed the land more densely populated. The railroad thus began a heavy propaganda campaign to bring farmers out to the Panhandle.⁷ Cattlemen tried to discourage the farmers as they did not want to lose the open range and watering places. But there were too many factors encouraging the movement of farmers west for the cattlemen to hold them back for long.

The early farmers were mainly Civil War veterans, the unemployed, and European immigrants. The times were hard for settlers who came in the 1860's and 70's. They were plagued by grasshoppers, grain prices were low, freight rates were high, and there was feuding with the cattlemen.⁸ This situation was eased by better growing weather in the 1880's. The rain was more plentiful and regular. There was easy credit available as easterners felt that Nebraska was a good investment. Farmers mortgaged all they had in order to buy more land, machinery, and livestock. The crash came in 1890 when Nebraska was hit with drought. For the next 10 years all but two years were dry. In 1891 alone, 1,800 wagons left the state.⁹

Among those who stayed a prairie agriculture emerged. Alfalfa was grown as a drought resistant crop. In the river valleys irrigation began. Farmers learned to let sections of their land lie fallow a year at a time to increase the moisture content of the land. They planted wheat in the fall rather than in the spring and began diversified farming.¹⁰

⁷Farmer, F.M. Land Boom of SW Nebraska 1880-90, M.A. Thesis, Department of History, University of Nebraska, July 1936, p. 7.

⁸Nebraska, p. 68.

⁹Ibid, p. 58.

¹⁰Ibid, p. 75.

In 1904 the Kinkaid Law went into effect, allowing a settler to homestead 640 acres. This law signaled the end of the open range. Soon thereafter the Texas Longhorn was replaced by more substantial, smaller breeds of beef and dairy cattle.¹¹

The first quarter of the 20th century was a good time for Nebraskans. Farming conditions were good and money was plentiful once again. Farm land was in demand, grain prices were high, and mechanized farming was boosting production.¹² In 1921 the Federal Reserve Board curtailed bank credit. This signaled the end of the boom. Farmers were forced to sell livestock and produce on falling markets in order to reduce their notes. Prices fell off dramatically. Wheat that had been selling for \$2.00/bushel fell to \$1.40. In 1929, Wall Street crashed and prices dropped even further. Wheat fell to 28 cents/bushel. In 1920, 35,200 of Nebraska's 124,400 farms were mortgaged. By 1930, 100,000 farms were debtridden. Many of them were turned over to the banks. The condition of the farmers affected everyone.¹³ In 1932, the Democratic Administration began its New Deal and relief measures were put into effect. For Nebraska farmers many of the new policies were obscured by successive years of drought.¹⁴

In the 1950's Kimball County experienced two economic booms whose main impact occurred around the county seat, Kimball. In June 1951, oil was discovered. Kimball became the service and supply center for oil producers in the Denver-Julesberg Basin. In this capacity it served northeast Colorado, southeast Wyoming, and the Nebraska Panhandle. In recent years oil production in the area has slowed down.

¹¹ Nebraska, p. 62.

¹² Ibid, p. 66.

¹³ Ibid, p. 66.

¹⁴ Ibid, p. 68.

In 1954, the United States government began the installation of 200 ICBM's around Kimball. At the time of the installation there was a large influx of military personnel. After the site was completed military personnel were reduced to the number needed to maintain the missiles. In 1974 the missile sites were upgraded. Today in Kimball County farming and cattle raising are the most important occupations. The main crop is wheat with potatoes and sugar beets being grown in irrigated valleys. Most of the cattle raising occurs in conjunction with farming.

In 1888 Kimball, located in the Lodgepole Creek Valley, was the largest town in Kimball County and was selected to be county seat. Today it remains the county's largest town with a population of 4,000. It is locally known as "Missile Center USA." It is also called the "Oil Capital of Nebraska." The Union Pacific Railroad runs through the town and Interstate 80 skirts its southern edge. U.S. Highway 30 and Tri-State Highway 71 intersect at Kimball.

The population of the county has been fluctuating ever since 1930 (See Table 3-1). There was a 16 percent decrease in population from 1930 to 1940. This is in line with general trends throughout the agricultural midwest and west. The decline in economic growth and population is thought to be caused at least partially by marginally low prices for farm products along with ever increasing costs for farm labor and production materials. There was a move toward fewer but larger farms and increased mechanization, both of which caused the need for fewer people to run the farming operation.

From 1940 to 1950, the county experienced a slight increase of 9 percent in population. The most dramatic increase came between 1950-60 when the population skyrocketed by 86.2 percent. This was a direct

TABLE 3-1. Population of Kimball County, 1890-1970.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Population</u>
1890	959
1900	758
1910	1,942
1920	4,498
1930	4,675
1940	3,913
1950	4,283
1960	7,975
1970	6,009

Source: Nebraska Blue Book 1974-75, p. 785.

result of the oil and missile booms. From 1960 to 1970 the population declined by 24.7 percent as the missile population stabilized and oil production slowed.

Although Kimball County experienced a population decline from 1960 to 1970, the age characteristics of its population are in accordance with the state's overall age characteristics (See Table 3-2). The county has not had a rapid loss of its youth as evidenced by the median age of 26.7 and slightly higher percentage than the state of children under the age of five (9.2 percent versus 8.1 percent). The median family income in Kimball County of \$9,109 is higher than the state average median income of \$8,562.

TABLE 3-2. Comparison of Nebraska to Kimball County, 1970.

	<u>Nebraska</u>	<u>Kimball County</u>
Increase in pop. 1960-70	5.2%	- 24.7%
% Urban	61.6	56.5
% under age 5	8.1	9.2
% 18 years or over	65.7	60.2
% 65 years or over	12.4	8.2
Median age	28.8	26.7

Source: County and City Data Book 1972, U.S. Department of Commerce.

CHAPTER 4
CURRENT EMPLOYMENT AND POPULATION

In recent years, the population of Kimball County has remained relatively constant. Table 4-1 shows that in 1970 approximately 6,009 persons resided in the county, and since then the population of Kimball County has declined to approximately 5,260 persons. Kimball, the county seat, has a current population of approximately 4,411 or 84 percent of the total for the county. Bushnell, with a population of approximately 212, and Dix, with a population of approximately 307, are the only other towns in the county.

TABLE 4-1. Kimball County population.

<u>Year</u>	<u>Estimated Population</u>
1970	6,009
1971	5,600
1972	5,500
1973	5,500
1974	6,500
1975	5,600
1976*	5,260

Source: 1970: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of the Population.

1971-1975: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Federal State Cooperative Program for Population Estimates, Series P-26.

*University of Wyoming estimates.

The county's economic base also has remained relatively constant in recent years and consists mainly of agricultural and government employment. The agriculture sector of the economy consists mainly of wheat and livestock production, but also produces significant amounts of feed grains and hay. At the present time, there are approximately 387 farm proprietors in the county, and approximately 138 farm workers.

The other significant employer is the government. Most of the government employees maintain the missile installations around the town of Kimball. In 1954, 200 ICBM's were installed. At that time there was a large influx of military personnel. After the site was completed the military personnel were reduced to the number needed to maintain the missile site.

Another factor in the economic picture of the county is that in 1951 oil was discovered in and around the town of Kimball. Oil production has slowed down in recent years but still employs a significant percentage of the county's population. After the oil was discovered, Kimball became the service and supply center for oil producers in the Denver-Julesberg Basin. In this capacity it served northeastern Colorado, southeastern Wyoming, and the Nebraska Panhandle.

Table 4-2 gives estimated employment by industry sector for Kimball County from the period 1970 through 1976. The first row in the table shows the number of farm proprietors in the county has decreased slightly each year for the past six years, a trend which is in concurrence with the movement toward fewer and larger farms. However, the reduction in the number of farm proprietors in the county has been accompanied by an increase in the number of farm workers, so there are actually a few more

people employed in the agricultural sector of the economy now than there were in 1970.

The last row in Table 4-2 shows that employment in the government sector has remained relatively constant since 1970. As mentioned earlier, most of these jobs are in connection with the missile site. The support sectors of the economy, including trade, services, and finance and real estate, have grown slightly in total employment from 1970 through 1976. The transportation, communications, utilities and construction sectors have also been increasing. Between 1970 and 1976 the mining and manufacturing sectors have been decreasing. This has been due mainly to the decreasing oil supply in the Kimball County area.

TABLE 4-2. Kimball County employment by industry sector, 1970-1976, and unemployment rates for 1974 and 1975.

Industry Sector	1970	1971	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
Farm Proprietors	418	413	417	412	397	392	387
Farm Workers	90	110	118	118	125	131	138
Manufacturing	142	125	121	114	N/A	133	133
Mining	308	264	207	176	185		
Construction	161	107	N/A	189	274	265	284
Transportation, Communications, Utilities	91	79	81	99	114	114	114
Finance, Insurance, Real Estate	29	30	42	47	50	50	50
Trade	469	430	437	450	456	454	460
Services	N/A	N/A	N/A	162	188	221	248
Nonfarm Proprietors	326	338	352	351	352	N/A	N/A
Government	420	410	380	419	428	453	480
TOTALS	2,676	2,456	2,385	2,527	2,692	2,213	2,294
Unemployment Rate - Year Average					3.0	3.6	

Source: 1970-1974: U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis, Regional Economic Information System (Unpublished).

1975-1976: University of Wyoming estimates.

N/A = Not available, but included in totals.

CHAPTER 5

RETAIL TRADE AND SERVICES

Wholesale and retail trade and services are often referred to as "nonbasic" or "service" industries because they generally do not bring large amounts of outside money into a local economy. Instead, they play the very important role of serving the needs for goods and services of an area's indigenous population. Trade establishments are primarily engaged in the sale of goods, such as food and gasoline, while service establishments provide a variety of services ranging from television repair to dental work.

At the present time, Kimball County has a total of 134 wholesale and retail trade establishments and 76 service establishments. These employ a total of approximately 708 people, or over 25 percent of the county's work force.¹ Of the 134 trade establishments, nine are located in Bushnell, eight in Dix, and the remainder in Kimball. Of the 76 service establishments, two are in Bushnell, two are in Dix, and the remainder are in Kimball. Residents do their shopping within the county and also shop in Scottsbluff, NE, and Cheyenne, WY. It is estimated that there was \$41 million in disposable income in the county in 1975. Of this \$26 million was spent on retail sales within the county. The remaining \$15 million was either saved or spent outside the county.

During fall 1976, the research team conducted a mail survey of these establishments to obtain information concerning their average sales, wage rates paid to salaried employees, and other information.

¹University of Wyoming estimates.

The results of this survey, along with corresponding information from the 1972 Censuses of Retail and Wholesale Trade, is given in Table 5-1. The data show that the total number of trade establishments in the county has grown slightly from a total of 121 in 1972, to 134 in 1976. However, the number of employees per establishment has remained relatively constant for the past two years.. Average annual sales per establishment has increased from approximately \$300,000 in 1972, to approximately \$510,000 in 1975. The survey results also show that the average hourly wage for employees of trade establishments increased slightly during the past two years, and the range of wages paid during 1976 is somewhat higher than it was during 1975.

TABLE 5-1. Selected characteristics of retail and wholesale trade establishments in Kimball County.

Characteristic	Year		
	1972 ¹	1975 ²	1976 ²
Number of Establishments	121	133	134
Number of New Establishments	NA	27	21
Average Number of Employees on Payroll	4.12	4.62	4.90
FT } PT }		1.56	1.78
Annual Sales Per Establishment	\$298,388	\$510,149	NA
Average Hourly Wage	NA	\$2.90	\$3.05
Hourly Wage Range	NA	\$.90-6.85	\$1.05-7.00

NA = Not Available.

¹U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1972 Census of Retail Trade and 1972 Census of Wholesale Trade.

²University of Wyoming estimates.

Characteristics of service establishments in Kimball County are given in Table 5-2. Although data from the 1972 Census of Selected Service Industries is included for purposes of comparison, it should be noted that this data is not strictly comparable with the results obtained from the survey because it excludes certain health and other professional services which are part of the service industry. The 1975 figure for average sales per establishment is significantly higher than the corresponding 1972 figure because the latter excluded those professionals. On the average, service establishments in Kimball County grossed an average of \$61,000 a year in 1975, and paid wages averaging \$2.72/hour to employees. During 1976 the average wage rate rose to \$2.92/hour.²

In summary, it appears that there have been no significant increases in the number of trade and service establishments in Kimball County over the past several years. This conclusion is consistent with the relative stability of employment in the base sector of the county's economy, specifically agricultural and government industries.

²Sales figures for 1976 were not available at the time the survey was conducted.

TABLE 5-2. Selected characteristics of service industry establishments in Kimball County.

Characteristic	Year		
	1972 ¹	1975 ²	1976 ²
Number of Establishments	68	76	76
Number of New Establishments	NA	16	4
Average Number of Employees on Payroll	2.61	1.68	1.59
FT } PT }		1.09	1.32
Annual Sales Per Establishment	\$22,176	\$60,902	NA
Average Hourly Wage	NA	\$2.72	\$2.92
Hourly Wage Range	NA	\$1.25-7.76	\$1.25-8.60

NA = Not Available.

¹U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, 1972 Census of Selected Service Industries.

²University of Wyoming estimates.

CHAPTER 6

HOUSING PATTERNS AND PREFERENCES

Table 6-1 summarizes housing information for Kimball County from U.S. Census data for 1950, 1960, and 1970. The data for 1976 is drawn from the household survey results. As indicated in the table, the total housing supply in the county has fluctuated through the years. There was a large increase of slightly over 1,000 units from 1950 to 1960 and a small decrease in available housing from 1960 to 1970.

Of all the occupied housing units approximately 71 percent were occupied by the present owner in 1976, an increase over previous years. The median value of owner occupied houses increased between 1950 and 1960 but dropped slightly from 1960 to 1970. The small decrease in housing value can probably be attributed to the end of the oil and missile booms with the consequent lessening of pressure on available housing. The number of mobile homes increased dramatically from 26 to 531 between 1950 and 1960 during the start of the booms. At the time of the 1970 Census the number of mobile homes had decreased to 271, a 49 percent drop. The number of mobile homes has continued to drop with a total of 225 counted in 1976.

QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES TO HOUSING ITEMS

A number of housing questions were included in the general household survey administered in Kimball County. (See Attachment 2.) The results from some of these questions are summarized below.

First of all respondents were asked, "What type of dwelling unit do you live in?" The frequency of responses were as follows.

TABLE 6-1. Housing characteristics for Kimball County based on 1950, 1960, 1970 Census and 1976 household survey results.

Year	Total	In One-Unit Structures (Percent)	Number of Mobile Homes	Mobile Homes as a Percentage of Total Housing Stock
1950	1,397	85.3%	26	2%
1960	2,396	64.0%	531	22%
1970	2,064	72.0%	271	13%
1976	2,058	84.6%	225*	11%

*Approximately 15 of these were temporary.

OCCUPIED UNITS

Year	Total	Owner Occupied		Median Gross Monthly Rent (Dollars)
		Total (Percent)	Median Value (Dollars)	
1950	1,269	61.7%	6,111	45
1960	2,245	66.0%	12,600	86
1970	1,879	61.0%	12,100	82
1976	NA	70.6%		90 (based on a 17 percent response from the survey)

NA = Not Available.

84.6% House.

5.1% Apartment.

8.4% Mobile Home.

1.8% Other form of housing.

Respondents were then asked, "Do you own or rent your home?" The responses were the following.

70.6% Own home.

15.8% Rent home.

3.3% Own mobile home but rent space.

4.0% Own mobile home and space.

6.3% Other form of housing and financing.

In recent years Kimball County has not had a large number of new mobile home dwellers or people renting apartments or homes. During the 1950's and early 60's Kimball did experience a massive influx of mobile homes due to the oil and missile booms. After the booms the number of mobile homes decreased and stabilized. The percentage of people owning their own home (71 percent) shows an increase in home ownership over previous years.

Respondents were then asked, "Would you prefer to live in some other form of dwelling unit?" Responses were as follows.

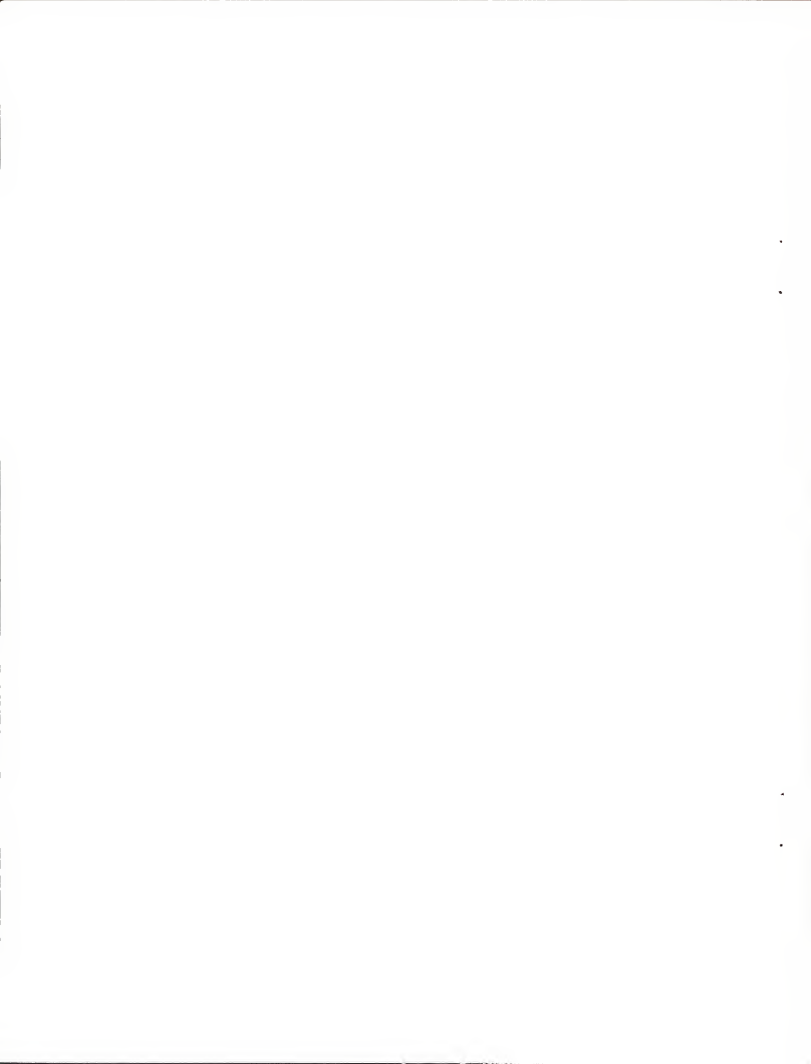
10.3% Yes; single family house.

1.1% Yes; apartment.

2.6% Yes; some other form of housing.

86.0% No.

These results help to confirm the idea that the majority of residents in the county responding to the survey are long-time residents who have had time to seek and obtain their first preference for type of housing.



CHAPTER 7

KIMBALL COUNTY PUBLIC SERVICES, EXPENDITURES AND REVENUES

7.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses services provided in Kimball County, their costs and their sources of revenue. It is important as it discusses all of the above for the case of a county with relatively stable (or slightly declining) population. As a result, it serves as an excellent contrast to counties with rapidly growing populations.

Besides the overall county budget, services and costs are discussed in the areas of sheriff's protection, fire protection, health, mental health and social services.

7.2 Kimball County

In a period of declining population, the total Kimball County budget rose; it increased 28 percent from 1973-74 to 1974-75 and 29 percent in the succeeding year. This represents an increasing per capita cost of county government. General administrative expenditures rose 11 percent from FY-74 to FY-75 and 21 percent from FY-75 to FY-76. The law enforcement budget rose 25 percent and 26 percent, respectively, over those three years. Health rose 111 percent between FY-74 and FY-75 and 14 percent from FY-75 to FY-76. The budget is shown in Table 7-1.

There has not been a personal property tax at the state level since 1966. The state does collect a personal income tax and a sales tax. At the county level there are real estate and personal property taxes. The 12 school districts within Kimball County are the basic

TABLE 7-1. Budget summary for Kimball County, FY-74-FY-76.

Expenditures	FY-74	FY-75	FY-76*	Percent Change FY-74-FY-75	Percent Change FY-75-FY-76
General	\$236,187	\$262,141	\$ 316,706	11%	21%
Law Enforcement/ Judicial	73,692	92,076	116,430	25%	26%
Health	48,690	102,698	117,371	111%	14%
Road/Bridge	266,981	270,504	291,741	1%	8%
County Fair	---	---	22,175	--	--
Elections	5,157	5,808	7,800	13%	34%
Parks and Recreation	10,918	---	1,500	-100%	--
Noxious Weed Control	26,884	28,869	41,375	7%	43%
Inheritance Tax	---	16,948	34,509	--	--
Revenue Sharing	---	75,147	153,719	--	104%
TOTALS	\$668,509	\$854,191	\$1,103,326	28%	29%

*Appropriations not actual expenditures.

taxing districts and the three towns also hold levies. The sales tax of two and one-half percent all goes to the state and the city gets a share according to a specific formula. None of the money from the state income tax comes back to the county directly.

The total county level has risen steadily from 1973. It was \$14.32/\$1,000 assessed value in 1973, \$14.70 in 1974, \$15.27 in 1975, and \$17.73 in 1976. This represents a 24 percent increase over the period; the sharpest rise was between 1975 and 1976. The increased

mill levies have occurred in the face of an increasing total assessed valuation.

7.3 Sheriff's Office

Table 7-2 shows expenditures for the sheriff's office for FY-75 and FY-76. Total expenditures declined slightly despite a 19 percent rise in salaries. The decline in the total budget is traceable to an 84 percent decline in expenditures for county cars.

The Kimball County Sheriff's Office, located in the county courthouse, is made up of the sheriff, one deputy, a daytime dispatcher, and a jailer for night duty. The jail has three cells, one of which is isolated. When necessary, juveniles and females are taken to Scottsbluff. The sheriff's office operates two vehicles.

Table 7-3 shows reported arrests by the Kimball County Sheriff for calendar years 1974 and 1975. As can be seen the offense with the greatest increase was robbery and burglary (150 percent). Larceny/theft experienced the greatest decrease (-78 percent). Overall arrests rose by 35 percent between 1974 and 1975. As only two years are shown no trends can be established.

7.4 Fire Protection

Each town in Kimball County has a city department and a rural district for which the towns are responsible. Kimball's fire department is discussed in Chapter 8. It has 40 volunteers and five vehicles designated for city use. For rural use they operate the following.

1957 Dodge, 500 GPM Pumper

6x6 Army Surplus Truck which carries
2,200 gallons

Ambulance, 1965 Oldsmobile

TABLE 7-2. Budget summary for Kimball County Sheriff's Office for FY-75 and FY-76.

Expenditures	FY-75	FY-76	Percent Change
Salaries	\$27,853.74	\$33,108.00	19
Office Supplies	2,201.31	2,500.00	14
Uniforms	442.29	500.00	13
Travel	2,206.06	2,625.00	19
County Cars	9,676.96	1,500.00	-84
Board	0	0	--
Other	0	50.00	--
TOTAL	\$42,379.36	\$40,283.00	- 5

Source: Kimball County budget.

Dix has 25 volunteers, two fire trucks, and one water truck. These are used for both city and rural calls.

In Bushnell there are 25 volunteers and a 1947, 400 GPM Pumper for intown use. For rural calls the following equipment is available.

1972 Ford, 300 GPM Pumper

1947 Ford, 450 GPM Pumper

1952 Jeep, 55 gallons with an electric pump

1952 6x6 GMC with 1,800-gallon capacity

In all three towns rural equipment will be used in town if necessary and vice versa.

7.5 Health

7.5.1 Hospital Budgets

Table 7-4 shows a summary budget for the hospital in FY-74 through FY-76. Total expenditures have risen five and six percent over the past three years. These rates are below the level of inflation in those years. Revenues have also been rising, although the rate of increase

TABLE 7-3. Report of arrests, Kimball County Sheriff's Office -- by calendar year.

Type of Offense	1974	1975	1976 ^{NA}	Percent Change 1974-75	Percent Change 1975-76
1) Violent Crimes Against Persons	1	1		0	
2) Forcible Rape and Other Sex Offenses	2	1		-50	
3) Robbery and Burglary	4	10		150	
4) Larceny/Theft	9	2		-78	
5) Simple Assault	0	2		--	
6) Fraud and Embezzlement	0	3		--	
7) Vandalism and Disorderly Conduct	0	2		--	
8) Prostitution and Commercial Vice	0	0		0	
9) Drug Offenses	11	9		-18	
10) Gambling	0	0		0	
11) Child Abuse	0	0		0	
12) Alcohol Related Crimes	14	12		-14	
13) All Other Offenses	<u>14</u>	<u>32</u>		129	
TOTALS	55	74		35	

Source: Nebraska Uniform Crime Report, 1974, 1975.

NA = Not Available.

for FY-76 is below that for expenditures. Expenditures exceeded revenues for all three years, but cash balances more than made up the revenue shortfall. Cash balances, however, have been steadily declining and none were available after FY-76. Patient fees provide the major portion of hospital revenues.

7.5.2 Hospital Utilization and Treatments

Tables 7-5 and 7-6 show occupancy rate, average length of stay and inpatient/outpatient contacts by calendar year from 1972 through 1976. The occupancy rate dropped from 49 percent to 44.1 percent between 1973 and 1974 and has fluctuated between 41 and 44 percent since then. This drop has occurred even though the hospital went from a 40-bed capacity to 37. Average length of stay has fluctuated between 3.8 and 4.4 days. The number of inpatients dropped significantly after 1974. The decrease in patients is consistent with a lower occupancy rate and with a declining population in Kimball County. A comparison of Table 7-5 with expenditures in Table 7-4 indicates rising per patient costs.

Table 7-7 shows the distribution of inpatient treatments from 1973 to 1976. There is little variation in the distribution of treatments. Medicine consistently ranks first, pediatrics second. There is some switching among the other three, but, generally, surgery is third. Obstetrics and trauma are fourth and fifth, with trauma sometimes displacing surgery as third.

7.5.3 Ambulance Service

Table 7-8 shows expenditures and revenues for the Kimball County ambulance service. Salaries are the major expenditure and did not rise between FY-75 and FY-76. Property tax is the main source of revenue

TABLE 7-4. Budget summary for Kimball County Hospital, FY-74-FY-76.

	FY-74	FY-75	FY-76	Percent Change FY-74-FY-75	Percent Change FY-75-FY-76
<u>Expenditures</u>					
Salaries	\$339,811	\$374,027	\$396,322	10	6
Other Expenses	286,278	285,968	303,635	0	6
Depreciation	<u>27,518</u>	<u>29,327</u>	<u>28,043</u>	7	-4
TOTALS	\$653,607	\$689,322	\$728,000	5	6
<u>Revenues</u>					
Patient Fees	\$597,794	\$646,304	\$651,102	8	1
Property Taxes	3,626	11,875	15,000	227	26
Miscellaneous	27,726	27,514	25,000	-1	-9
Total Revenues	629,146	685,693	691,102	9	1
Balance Forward from Previous Years	<u>64,988</u>	<u>40,527</u>	<u>36,898</u>	-38	-9
TOTAL REVENUES PLUS CASH	\$694,134	\$726,220	\$728,000	5	0

TABLE 7-5. Yearly averages of occupancy rates and average length of stay by calendar year, 1972-1976.

	Occupancy Rate (Percent)	Average Length of Stay (Days)
1972	47.3	4.2
1973	49.0	4.4
1974	44.1	3.9
1975	41.7	3.8
1976	44.9	4.2

Source: Kimball County Hospital.

TABLE 7-6. Inpatient and outpatient contacts totals and monthly averages by calendar year for 1972-1976.

		Inpatient Contacts	Outpatient Contacts
1972	Total	1900	NA
	Monthly Average	158	NA
1973	Total	1869	1076
	Monthly Average	156	90
1974	Total	1890	1421
	Monthly Average	158	118
1975	Total	1661	1370
	Monthly Average	138	114
1976	Total	1472 ^Δ	NA
	Monthly Average	134 ^Δ	NA

Source: Kimball County Hospital.

NA = Not Available.

^Δ = Based on eleven months.

and fell slightly in FY-76, as was the case with property tax revenues in most other areas. Revenues and expenditures match closely in all three years, allowing the maintenance of a stable cash balance.

The service maintains one ambulance and one back-up. Full-time drivers vary from two to three and, in addition, there are 15 volunteer drivers.

7.5.4 Other Health Facilities and Manpower

The hospital has 37 acute care beds which provides 6.6 beds/1,000 people in the county. Most referrals are sent to hospitals in Cheyenne, WY or Scottsbluff, NE.

There are three doctors who work in the hospital. Two of these also operate a joint private clinic which has an x-ray machine and limited testing facilities.

There are 12 full-time practicing registered nurses (RN's), 10 part-time and seven nurses not employed residing in the county. There are also six full-time, one part-time, and two unemployed licensed practical nurses (LPN's) in the county.

At present, there is one full-time dentist in Kimball.

Kimball County has one nursing home which is located in Kimball. It is classified as an intermediate care facility. The nursing home provides 52 beds and services a population of 520 citizens, ages 65 and over.

7.5.5 Mental Health

Kimball County residents receive mental health services through the Panhandle Mental Health Center located in Scottsbluff, NE. Table 7-9 indicates admissions to the center according to primary admitting diagnoses for the past three fiscal years. Accompanying the decline in

TABLE 7-7. Inpatient treatments by month, Kimball County Hospital.

1973	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL	Average By Year
Medicine	105	94	98	96	89	100	98	118	108	115	122	121	1260	105
Surgery	14	4	14	6	12	13	14	8	1	8	8	15	117	10
Obstetrics	5	10	5	12	9	13	8	7	13	5	12	8	107	9
Pediatrics	28	34	17	31	30	34	25	23	25	5	21	28	301	25
Trauma	9	11	7	3	7	2	0	4	10	8	6	7	74	6
Other	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	163	157	142	148	147	163	145	161	157	142	169	179	1873	156
1974														
Medicine	100	88	110	92	103	83	98	108	92	95	94	88	1151	96
Surgery	13	9	14	13	10	12	14	12	10	7	15	15	144	12
Obstetrics	7	8	11	8	7	11	11	12	13	8	7	4	107	9
Pediatrics	37	44	38	39	31	32	28	31	36	42	35	42	435	36
Trauma	6	4	4	2	1	13	6	7	8	2	3	8	64	5
Other	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0.25</u>
TOTAL	164	153	177	154	152	151	158	170	159	154	155	157	1904	159

Source: Kimball County Hospital.

TABLE 7-7. Inpatient treatments by month, Kimball County Hospital. (Continued)

1975	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL	Average for Year
Medicine	99	63	84	94	70	75	89	80	74	58	55	71	912	76
Surgery	11	12	10	12	8	7	13	18	12	24	21	10	158	13
Obstetrics	6	8	5	7	5	4	12	5	9	8	10	8	87	7
Pediatrics	56	36	46	31	32	27	42	33	28	27	34	30	422	35
Trauma	9	3	3	1	9	14	4	3	14	13	7	5	85	7
Other	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>0.25</u>
TOTAL	182	123	148	145	124	127	160	139	138	130	127	124	1667	139
1976														
Medicine	94	87	96	58	67	50	76	73	50	73	NA	72	NA	66
Surgery	17	24	29	16	15	18	5	11	17	21	NA	12	NA	15
Obstetrics	3	10	8	5	12	12	8	8	8	11	NA	8	NA	8
Pediatrics	31	31	37	23	19	31	33	24	24	36	NA	27	NA	26
Trauma	10	4	6	10	19	18	14	10	11	7	NA	10	NA	10
Other	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	NA	<u>0</u>	NA	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	155	156	176	112	132	129	136	126	110	148	NA	129	NA	126

Source: Kimball County Hospital.

NA = Not Available.

TABLE 7-8. Expenditures and revenues for the Kimball County ambulance service.

	FY-74	FY-75	FY-76	Percent Change FY-74-FY-75	Percent Change FY-75-FY-76
<u>Expenditures</u>					
Salaries	\$10,800	\$12,000	\$12,000	11	0
Operating Expenses	1,875	2,334	2,937	24	26
Capital Outlay	346	194	300	-48	55
Miscellaneous	<u>6</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>10</u>	0	67
TOTAL*	\$13,027	\$14,533	\$15,247	12	5
<u>Revenues</u>					
Net Cash Balance	\$ 5,849	\$ 5,199	\$ 5,199	-11	0
State	203	602	40 ^Δ	197	NA
Ambulance Services	4,732	3,375	6,950	-29	106
Property Tax	<u>7,442</u>	<u>10,556</u>	<u>9,058</u>	42	-14
TOTAL REVENUES	12,337	14,533	16,048		
Total Revenue Plus Cash Balance	\$18,226	\$19,732	\$21,247 ^Δ	8	NA

Source: Kimball County budget.

NA = Not Available.

Δ = Incomplete.

*Individual items may not add correctly due to rounding.

TABLE 7-9. Primary admitting diagnosis for Kimball County mental health clients admitted during FY-74, FY-75, and FY-76.

Diagnosis	FY-74	FY-75	FY-76	Net Increase/Decrease FY-74-FY-76
Alcohol Disorder	0	1	0	0
Drug Abuse,	0	0	0	0
Mental Retardation	2	1	1	-1
Depressive Disorder	10	5	6	-4
Schizophrenia	2	0	0	-2
Other Psychiatric Disorders	14	14	12	-2
Nonpsychiatric Disorders	0	2	3	+3
Transient Situational Disturbances	19	15	11	-8
Social/Marital Maladjustment	10	5	5	-5
Other/Unknown	<u>2</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>-19</u>
TOTAL	59	48	40	-19

Source: Panhandle Mental Health Center, Scottsbluff, NE.

admissions over this period have been decreases in all categories of diagnosis with the exception of nonpsychiatric disorders, which has increased. The sharpest drop recorded was in transient situational disturbances which fell from 19 to 11.

Because mental health services are funded on a regional basis, the total cost of services provided Kimball County residents by the center cannot be ascertained. The county's financial support has increased from \$4,900 in FY-74 to \$9,100 in FY-76 or by 85 percent. The large jump is mainly due to building costs in the later year which were absent in the previous two.

7.6 Social Services

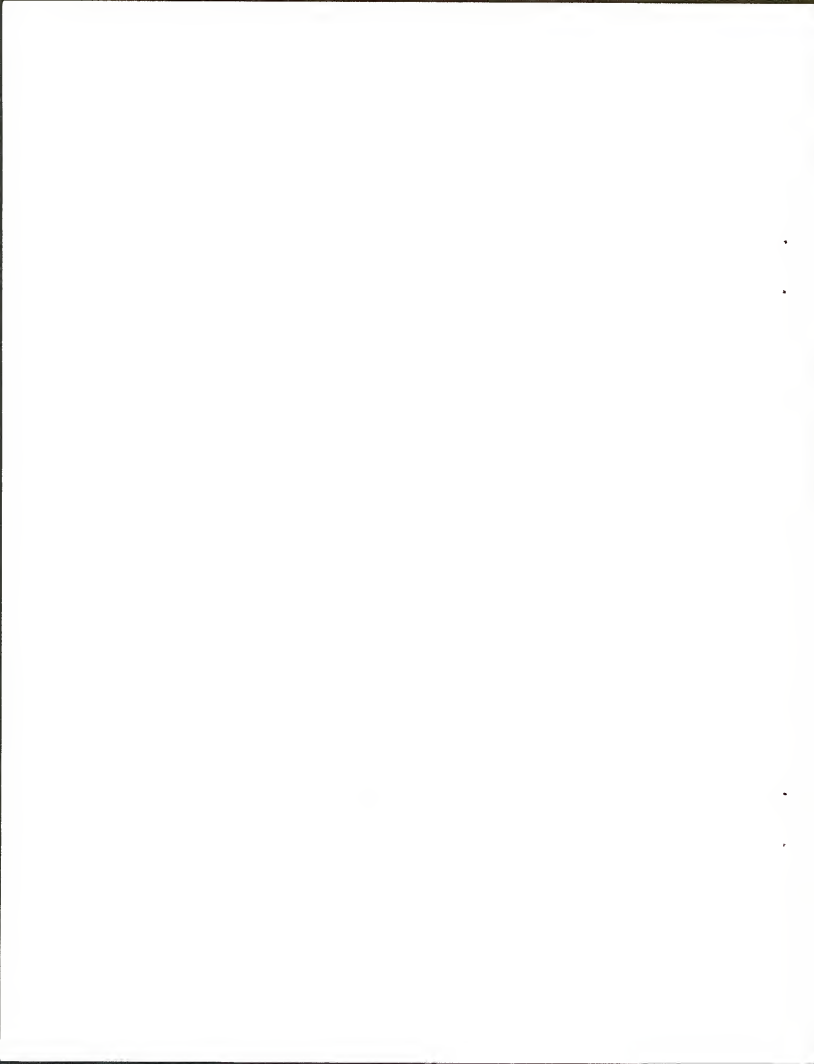
Table 7-10 presents a summary of social service payments to Kimball County residents for FY-75. An in depth analysis of public

assistance programs in Kimball County will be undertaken as this study proceeds.

TABLE 7-10. Review of public assistance payments for Kimball County for FY-75.

	Payment	Ave. Payment Per Month	Ave. No. of Case Per Month	Fed. & State Share	County Share
ADC - Regular	\$ 67,142	\$ 52.63	34	NA	NA
Foster Care*	1,704	142.00	1	NA	NA
Eligible Medical	193,159	1,951	70 Money 29 No Money	NA	NA
Crippled Children	NA	NA	10	NA	NA
State Supplement and/or SSI	7,865	34.80	19	NA	NA
Federal SSI	NA	NA	48	NA	NA
Emergency Assistance	0	0	0	NA	NA
TOTALS	\$269,870		112		

*Subtract this from ADC above.



CHAPTER 8

MUNICIPAL SERVICES, REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES

8.1 Introduction

The town of Kimball is the county seat and major population center of Kimball County. This chapter examines the municipal services available in Kimball, their costs, and revenue sources. Discussion begins with a consideration of the city's budgets for the past three fiscal years. The following sections outline municipal utility rates, discuss police department personnel, budgets and arrests, and describe fire department equipment and frequency of calls.

8.2 Kimball Budgets

Table 8-1 indicates city spending by category for FY-74, FY-75 and FY-76 as well as percentage changes during the same time period. Between FY-74 and FY-76, total expenditures by the city of Kimball rose 38 percent. All categories of expenditures grew during that period with the exception of airport spending, which fell by 70 percent. In dollar terms, the largest increase was in electrical distribution expenditures.

Table 8-1 also shows changes in city revenues during the past three fiscal years. Major portions of the city's funds are provided by the electrical and water systems and by property taxes. After falling between FY-74 and FY-75, property tax receipts rose by 42 percent the following year, largely the result of increased mill levies. Over the past three years, the city assessed valuation rose by six percent, from approximately \$7,450,000 in FY-74 to \$7,880,000

TABLE 8-1. City of Kimball, NE, operating expenditures and revenues for FY-74 to FY-76.¹

Expenditures	FY-74	FY-75	FY-76	Percent Change	
				FY-74-75	FY-75-76
General Administration	\$ 37,700	\$ 40,500	\$ 53,200	08	32
Law Enforcement	80,700	91,210	99,300	14	09
Fire Protection	6,900	7,900	49,000	16	600
Streets	95,500	104,400	136,400	09	30
Electric	392,000	520,700	585,000	32	13
Water & Sewer	108,500	133,000	134,500	23	01
Sanitation	52,340	57,275	56,850	09	00
Parks and Recreation	74,350	75,600	90,000	02	20
Library	24,000	26,500	26,500	10	00
Cemetery	10,950	15,000	19,200	50	23
Airport	55,000	34,500	16,700	-38	-53
Miscellaneous	7,700	22,000	40,300	200	91
TOTALS	\$ 945,640	\$ 1,120,685	\$ 1,306,950	20	16
Total Assessed Valuation	\$7,449,590	\$7,863,685	\$7,883,660	06	00.2
<u>Revenues</u>					
Property Tax	\$ 203,600	\$ 155,000	\$ 220,840	-24	42
Licenses, Fees, Permits	5,100	5,200	3,800	2	-27
Interest	21,600	25,600	12,400	19	-52
Other Taxes	5,900	8,900	9,000	51	1
Miscellaneous	94,130	134,000	137,000	42	2
Sales and Income Taxes	29,120	28,600	28,542	-2	-.2
Highway Tax	97,600	98,400	101,000	1	3
U.S. Treasury Bonds	35,200	31,500	33,360	-11	6
Revenue Sharing	1,100	75,280	49,100	6744	-35
Electric	392,000	520,700	585,000	33	12
Water & Sewer	108,500	133,000	134,500	23	1
Sanitation	52,340	57,275	56,850	9	-1
TOTALS	\$1,046,190	\$1,273,455	\$1,371,392	22	08
Surplus	\$100,000	\$152,770	\$64,442	52	-58

¹ FY-74 begins July 1, 1973 and ends June 30, 1974.

Source: Kimball Budgets, FY-74, FY-75, FY-76.

in FY-76. In FY-75, the town levied 24.18 mills against property within the town limits; the levy was increased to 26.92 for FY-76.

During the past three years, Kimball has enjoyed a surplus of revenues over expenditures. But for FY-76 the surplus was approximately \$64,000, down sharply from previous years.

8.3 Municipal Utilities

The city operates its own water, sewage, and electric systems. As of March 1, 1976 the minimum fee for water service was \$3.25. Rural water rates were 1 1/2 times the town rates. Residential sewage rates were \$2.20 and commercial rates were \$3.15. The industrial sewage rate was 60 percent of the average water consumption for three months of the year, beginning December 1st and ending March 1st. For electricity, rates were as follows: \$.09982 for the first 40 kilowatt hour (kwh), \$.04658 for the next 60 kwh, and \$.03326 for all usage over 100 kwh. The electric heat rate was \$.01999 for all over 300 kwh. The industrial rate was \$.02335 per kwh.

The city has an open dump which is available to the entire county. There is residential garbage pickup which costs three dollars per month. Plans are being developed for a land fill which would only be open to residents of the town of Kimball if financing continues to be strictly a town function or unless other arrangements are made.

8.4 Police

The Kimball Police Department has ten full-time employees. They are the chief of police, one captain, four patrolmen and four radio operators. Three of the operators are classified as regular and one is for relief. All four work full-time. The police department handles

the sheriff's calls between five p.m. and eight a.m., and the county pays the salary of one of the radio operators. The police dispatchers also handle calls for ambulance service and for the fire department. The police department, located in City Hall, has two squad cars and 350 square feet of office space. The jail is in the County Court House.

Table 8-2 gives the Kimball Police Department budget for the last three fiscal years as well as percentage changes in expenditures and revenues. Total departmental expenditures rose by 16 percent between FY-74 and FY-75 and another five percent the following year. The largest expense was for salaries during that period. Although they have declined over the past three years, revenues continue to exceed expenditures by the Police Department. Its major revenue source is the property tax which provided 79 percent of total revenue in FY-76.

Table 8-3 shows reported arrests by the Kimball Police Department for 1974, 1975, and 1976. The 1974 and 1975 figures are based on the Nebraska Uniform Crime Report. As this report was not available for 1976, the 1976 figures are based on the Kimball police reports. However, since reporting procedures are not consistent between the two reports, only 1974 and 1975 will be discussed. For both years the category with the largest number of arrests was "Alcohol Related Crimes" which makes up more than half of the total arrests. "All Other Offenses" ranks second, followed by "Vandalism and Disorderly Conduct." Arrests in Kimball remained fairly constant during these two years.

8.5 Fire Department

The town of Kimball maintains an all-volunteer fire department with 40 trained volunteers and the following equipment.

TABLE 8-2. Kimball police budget, FY 1974 to FY 1976.

Expenditures and Revenues	FY-74	FY-75	FY-76
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Salaries	\$ 66,105	\$ 75,210	\$ 79,165
Insurance	5,651	5,954	7,100
Repairs and Maintenance	1,524	4,300	3,000
Telephone	1,768	1,700	1,800
Auto Expense	4,162	5,200	5,700
Miscellaneous	<u>1,024</u>	<u>725</u>	<u>1,000</u>
TOTALS	\$ 80,234	\$ 93,089	\$ 97,765
<u>Revenues</u>			
Net Cash Balance	\$ 45,365	\$ 57,757	\$ 56,234
County Treasurer's Balance	0	4,238	0
Transfers	10,755	15,264	10,594
County Funds	5,349	6,186	6,653
Crime Commission	1,775	0	0
Property Tax	74,095	65,277	68,784
Miscellaneous	<u>652</u>	<u>601</u>	<u>500</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 92,626	\$ 91,566	\$ 86,530
TOTAL REVENUE PLUS CASH	\$137,991	\$149,323	\$142,765

Source: Kimball Budget.

TABLE 8-3. Report of arrests, Kimball, Nebraska, Police Department, calendar years 1974-1976.

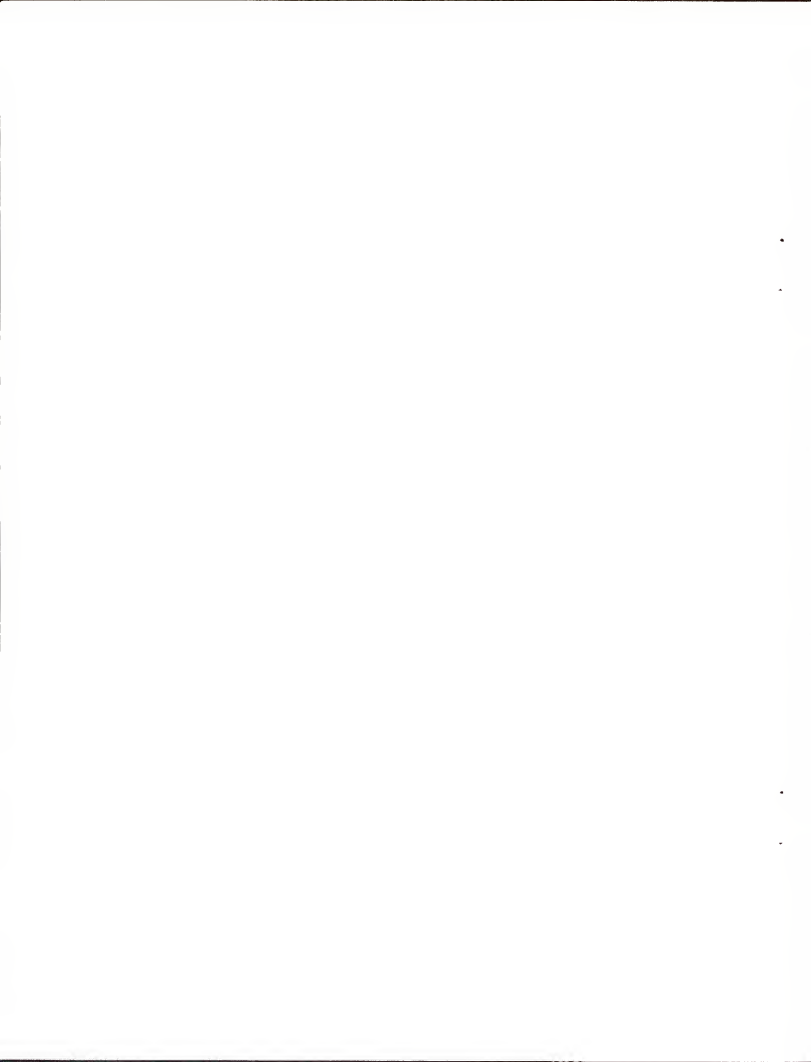
Type of Offense	1974 ¹	1975 ¹	1976 ²	Percent Change 1974-75	Percent Change 1975-76
1) Violent Crimes Against Persons	1	2	5	100	150
2) Forcible Rape and Other Sex Offenses	1	2	0	100	-100
3) Robbery and Burglary	13	6	2	- 54	- 67
4) Larceny/Theft	9	9	15	0	67
5) Simple Assault	2	3	0	50	-100
6) Fraud and Embezzlement	0	4	0	--	-100
7) Vandalism and Disorderly Conduct	21	17	7	- 19	- 59
8) Prostitution and Commercial Vice	0	0	0	0	0
9) Drug Offenses	2	4	12	100	200
10) Gambling	0	0	0	0	0
11) Child Abuse	0	0	0	0	0
12) Alcohol Related Crimes	86	82	46	- 5	- 44
13) All Other Offenses	<u>25</u>	<u>32</u>	<u>123</u>	28	284
TOTALS	160	161	210	1	30

¹Source: Nebraska Uniform Crime Report.

²Records for 1976 available through August, 1976; Source: Kimball Police Reports.

- (1) 1976, 750 GPM Pumper
- (2) 1963 International, 750 GPM Pumper
- (3) 1955 International, 400 GPM Pumper
- (4) 1942 GMC Tank Truck, 500 GPM Pumper, used as a relay pumper
- (5) 1969 International Van, used to carry equipment.

During the year beginning June 1975, the fire department received 60 calls; 45 percent of the calls were within the city limits calls and the remainder rural.



CHAPTER 9

SCHOOL ENROLLMENTS AND BUDGETS

9.1 Introduction

Public schools in Kimball County are located in Kimball, Bushnell and Dix. In this chapter we examine the status of the school system in the town of Kimball, which is composed of five districts. Analysis begins with school enrollments and teaching staffs for school years 1974-75, 1975-76 and 1976-77. The final section compares revenues and expenditures for Kimball schools over the past two fiscal years.

9.2 Enrollments

Table 9-1 presents school enrollments for the school years beginning in 1974, 1975 and 1976. Both high school and elementary enrollments fell during this period, and the major drop occurred between fall 1974 and fall 1975.

TABLE 9-1. Combined school enrollments for districts 1, 3, 4, 5 and 24 in Kimball County, 1974-77.

	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77	Percent Change 1974-1977
Elementary	913	664	603	-34
High School	<u>407</u>	<u>347</u>	<u>365</u>	-12
TOTAL	1320	1011	968	-27

Source: Nebraska Educational Directory.

9.3 Teachers

Table 9-2 shows the number of teachers and student-teacher ratios for the combined district.¹ The number of teachers remained essentially stable. This, combined with the significant drops in students, lowered the teacher ratio significantly; on the average each teacher dealt with 29 percent fewer pupils.

TABLE 9-2. Number of teachers and student teacher ratios for the Kimball combined district.

	1974-75		1975-76		1976-77	
	Teachers	Student Teacher Ratio	Teachers	Student Teacher Ratio	Teachers	Student Teacher Ratio
Elementary	52	18:1	51	15:1	51	12:1
High School	<u>27</u>	<u>13:1</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>12:1</u>	<u>29</u>	<u>13:1</u>
TOTAL	79	17:1	80	13:1	80	12:1

Source: Nebraska Educational Directory.

9.4 Vehicles

Table 9-3 shows the number of vehicles for the school district in 1974-75 and 1975-76. The number of high school buses dropped, presumably reflecting the lower enrollment. The buses for the elementary school increased. Although elementary school enrollments dropped during this period, the area covered by the combined district grew due to consolidation of other districts into the combined district. The rise in the number of buses reflects this.

¹"Combined Districts" includes districts 1, 3, 4, 5, and 24.

TABLE 9-3. Number of vehicles owned by the combined school district for 1974-75 and 1975-76 school years.

	1974-75		1975-76		Percent Change In Buses
	Buses	Other	Buses	Other	
Elementary	7	1	9	1	28
High School	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-33.3</u>
TOTAL	10	2	11	2	10

Source: Superintendent of Schools, Kimball, NE.

9.5 Revenues and Expenditures

Tables 9-4 and 9-5 summarize budgets for the Kimball school district between 1974 and 1976. Between 1974-75 and 1975-76, total expenditures rose six percent. This represents an increasing cost per pupil. All expenditure items rose except plant maintenance and miscellaneous. The greatest increase was in capital outlay.

It is not possible to compare total revenues across the two years as data for two revenue items in 1975-76 was available for only one of the districts included in the combined district. Total revenues in both years fell below total expenditures,² but cash balances more than covered the difference.

²This is true for 1975-76 with the information available. The two missing items of revenue might alter the case.

TABLE 9-4. Expenditures for school districts, #1, #3, #4, #005, and #24, Kimball, NE, for school years 1974-76.

	1974-75	1975-76*	Percent Change 1974-75 to 1975-76
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Administration	\$ 59,423	\$ 71,192	20
Instruction	1,132,852	1,196,590	6
Other School Services (Transportation, Health, Food, Etc.)	76,780	95,466	24
Operation of Plant	124,563	140,300	13
Maintenance of Plant	82,802	74,716	-10
Fixed Charges	139,816	167,035	19
Capital Outlay	9,938	37,810	280
Miscellaneous	<u>56,157</u>	<u>4,500</u>	<u>-92</u>
TOTAL	\$1,682,331	\$1,787,609	6

*Proposed expenditures.

Source: Nebraska State Department of Education, Annual Financial Reports and State of Nebraska Budget Forms SD-2.

TABLE 9-5. Revenues for school districts, #1, #3, #4, #005,
and #24, Kimball, NE, 1974-76.

	1974-75	1975-76*	Percent Change 1974-75 to 1975-76
<u>Revenues</u>			
Local District Revenue			
Property Taxes	\$1,082,166	\$1,227,296	13
Other Local (including county)	65,343	37,200	-43
State Revenue			
State Aid	281,399	266,600	-19
Land Income	75,098	61,100	-19
Other State	82,712	67,200	-19
Federal Revenue	163,762	400 ¹	NA
Non-Revenue Receipts	<u>37,427</u>	<u>15,500</u> ¹	<u>NA</u>
Total Revenue	\$1,787,907	\$1,635,296	- 9 ²
Cash Balance	<u>289,394</u>	<u>356,811</u>	<u>23</u>
Total Funds Available	\$2,077,301	\$1,992,107	- 4

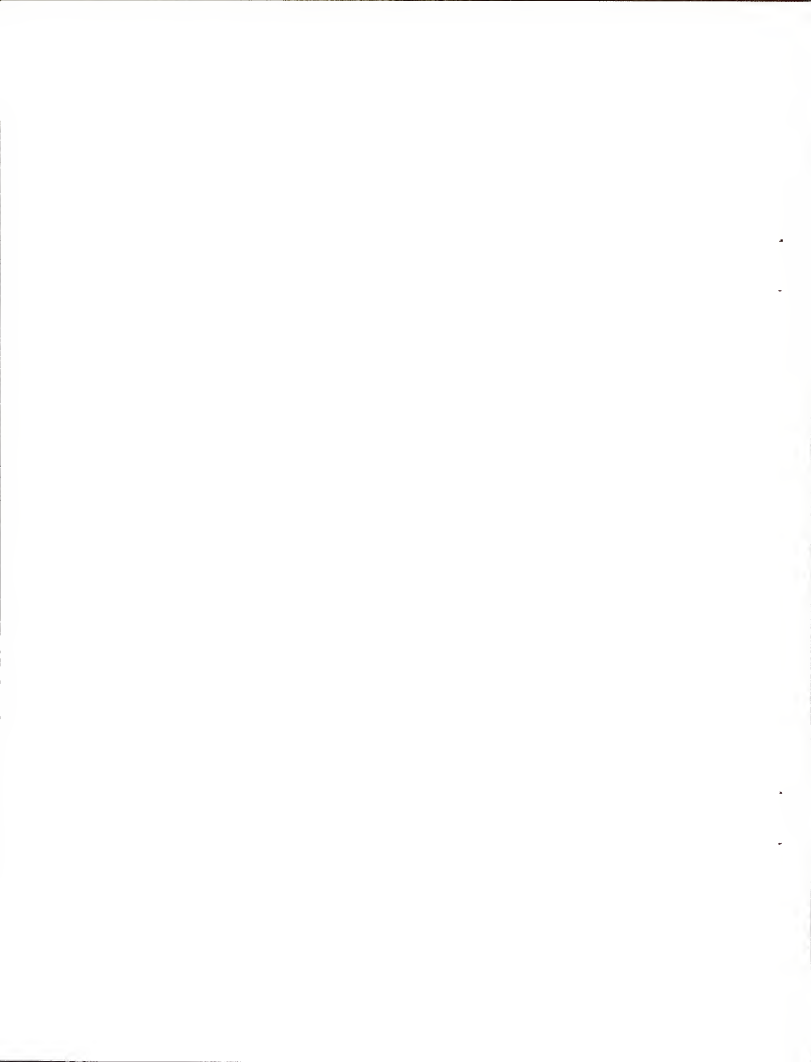
*Proposed revenues.

¹This figure was available for only one of the five districts.

²This figure is affected by the missing items in 1975-76.

NA = Not available.

Source: Nebraska State Department of Education, Annual Financial
Reports and State of Nebraska Budget Forms SD-2.



CHAPTER 10
ASPECTS OF COMMUNITY CHANGE

10.1 Introduction

In previous chapters, the basic population and economic characteristics of Kimball County were examined. Employment and population were traced over time; economic characteristics of the wholesale and retail trade and service sectors were analyzed; and housing patterns and preferences were reviewed, as were financial flows for the major political subdivisions.

But changes occurring in Kimball County over time are not entirely in the economic realm. The basic social organization of the county's communities may respond to economic and demographic changes in its environment. This change in social organization is often referred to as a change in the "quality of life." A primary purpose of the survey of households in Kimball County was to assess satisfaction among residents with the current quality of life. Attitude and belief statements were solicited from households as a means of judging residents' current satisfaction with their communities and their desire for change. In areas where dissatisfaction with the quality of life is expressed, a desire for improvements can be anticipated.

This chapter contains a review of responses from the household survey on satisfaction with community services, on attitudes toward economic growth and energy development, and beliefs and behaviors with respect to crime. It also gives a brief overview of recreational facilities and trends in vital statistics in the county.

10.2 Satisfaction with Public Services

Table 10-1 summarizes the degree of satisfaction respondents expressed toward public services in the county. The response choices for each area of service were: Extremely Satisfied (ES); Satisfied (S); Neutral (N); Dissatisfied (D); and Extremely Dissatisfied (ED). The figures in the table refer to the percentage of responses given in each category for each service.

TABLE 10-1. Degree of satisfaction/dissatisfaction with county public services.

Type of Service	ES	S	N	D	ED
1. Grade Schools	24	63	8	4	1
2. Junior High School	23	59	11	7	1
3. Senior High School	25	58	10	7	1
4. Police Protection	7	51	15	21	7
5. Sheriff Protection	6	45	20	21	8
6. Mail Services	13	60	8	13	8
7. Hospital Services	25	62	7	5	1
8. Local Physicians	32	57	6	4	1
9. Local Dentists	14	38	14	26	8
10. Ambulance Service	20	65	13	2	1
11. Telephone Service	10	46	11	20	14
12. Electrical Service	14	64	9	12	2
13. Shopping Facilities	6	39	18	31	6
14. Fire Protection	31	63	5	1	1
15. County Government	5	49	24	19	4
16. Social Services & Welfare Programs	6	29	31	19	15
17. Mental Health Services	4	37	43	13	4
18. Religious Services/Church	30	63	5	1	--
19. Household Services (plumbers, printers, electricians, etc.)	7	58	13	17	6

Overall there appears to be a high level of satisfaction with public services. All services are found satisfactory by 50 percent¹ or more of the respondents, except shopping facilities, social services and welfare programs and mental health services. However, more than 25

¹As a result of adding the responses "Satisfied" and "Extremely Satisfied."

percent of the respondents are dissatisfied² with the following services: police protection; sheriff protection; local dentists; telephone service; shopping facilities; and social services and welfare programs.

10.3 Attitudes Toward Growth Issues

Table 10-2 summarizes the responses to a number of questions related to growth and change in Kimball County. Numbers in the table indicate percentages giving each response. Generally, the responses indicate there is a feeling of cohesion and cooperation in the community, that development results in favorable consequences for the population though it involves some problems, and that development should be encouraged but not at the expense of all other aspects of life and environment.

TABLE 10-2. Attitudes toward growth and change.

	*SA	A	N	D	SD
1. People here now are friendly and cooperative.	43	48	5	4	1
2. With more development there would be more tax money available for better schools.	19	41	23	13	4
3. With more development there would be more jobs available so that young people would be able to remain here rather than having to move away.	39	45	9	6	1
4. If there were more development people would be less united and friendly because of the influx of many newcomers.	9	25	23	35	9

*SA = Strongly Agree; A = Agree; N = Neutral; D = Disagree; SD = Strongly Disagree.

²As a result of adding the responses "Dissatisfied" and "Extremely Dissatisfied."

TABLE 10-2. Attitudes toward growth and change. (Continued)

	*SA	A	N	D	SD
5. Development usually causes an increase in crime and illegal drug use.	13	44	17	24	2
6. With more development we would have better community services such as improved health care.	12	37	24	24	3
7. New development usually causes the incomes for local people to improve.	15	58	16	11	1
8. As badly as we need new industry and jobs, we cannot afford to sacrifice our clean air and beautiful scenery to attain them.	19	31	22	25	4
9. Industries should be force to shut down if they refuse to meet government pollution standards.	32	38	16	10	5
10. Even if industry is causing substantial pollution, it should not be forced to stop operations if it would put people out of work.	7	23	21	38	11
11. Despite the possibility of some damage to the environment, the nation should proceed with industrial development.	12	54	17	15	3
12. Increased population and economic growth should be encouraged, because it would mean a better selection of goods and services.	16	39	20	19	6
13. Land should be zoned for specific uses such as residential, commercial, industrial, or agricultural.	31	53	8	6	3
14. More residents in Kimball County would lower the quality of hunting and fishing.	11	21	23	37	8
15. In times of personal crisis, there are persons in this community that are willing to help you.	51	45	2	1	1

*SA = Strongly Agree; A = Agree; N = Neutral; D = Disagree; SD = Strongly Disagree.

TABLE 10-2. Attitudes toward growth and change. (Continued)

	*SA	A	N	D	SD
16. There is conflict between the different factions (groups) in this community.	5	18	25	42	10
17. Overall, there is a friendly relationship between the community merchants and the people.	26	62	7	4	1
18. This community is a good place to bring up your children.	50	44	5	2	--
19. Preventing crime is the job of the police, not the average citizen.	6	9	9	51	25

*SA = Strongly Agree; A = Agree; N = Neutral; D = Disagree; SD = Strongly Disagree.

10.4 Desire for Population and Economic Growth

In addition to the attitude questions in Table 10-2 respondents were asked a number of general questions about population and economic growth. The questions and their responses are presented below.

TABLE 10-3. "What is your feeling about future economic development in Kimball County?"

6% - No more growth is needed.
 72% - A moderate level of growth would be good.
 20% - As much growth as can be attracted is desirable.
 2% - No opinion.

TABLE 10-4. Responses concerning the maximum number of residents the respondents would like to see in Kimball County 20 years from now.

26% - About the same as now.
 1% - Less than the present population.
 73% - More than the present population.

Of those that wanted an increase in population, 65 percent wanted an increase to 8,000-12,000 people. Since the current population of Kimball County is approximately 6,000 people, the results of the above question are consistent with the results of the preceding question. Most of the respondents would like to see a "moderate" level of growth for their county.

TABLE 10-5. Ranking of the five most preferred types of economic development (one being the most desirable).

- 1 - Agricultural Development.
 - 2 - Light Industry.
 - 3 - Business Areas for Retail Trade.
 - 4 - Recreational Development.
 - 5 - Heavy Industry.
-

Overall respondents to the Kimball County household survey appear to be satisfied with the current condition of their communities and feel that Kimball County is a good place to live. In the future they would like to see a moderate level of economic and population growth. Although the respondents would like growth they also want to remain a predominantly agricultural county.

10.5 Attitudes Towards Crime

The perception of crime is often a more important determinant of people's satisfaction with the community they live in than is the actual crime rate. To determine attitudes towards crime, residents of Kimball County were asked a series of questions concerned with crime. Respondents were first asked their perception of the level of crime in the county.

TABLE 10-6. "Would you say that the crime rate in Kimball County is high, average, or low?"

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
High	8	3
Average	143	53
Low	111	41
Undecided	<u>9</u>	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	271	100

The above table indicates that 53 percent felt that the crime rate in Kimball County is average. A large percentage (41 percent) felt that the crime rate was low while only three percent perceived the crime rate as high.

The respondents were then asked whether they felt newcomers or people who have lived in the community for some time were the source of crimes in Kimball County.

TABLE 10-7. "Are most of the people who commit crimes in Kimball County newcomers, or are they people who have lived in Kimball County for some time?"

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Newcomers	55	20
Have Lived in the		
Community for Some Time	94	35
Uncertain	<u>122</u>	<u>45</u>
TOTAL	271	100

There is a significant difference between the number of respondents (20 percent) feeling that newcomers are the source of crimes in Kimball County and those (35 percent) feeling that people who have lived in the community for some time are the source of crimes committed in Kimball County. Forty-five percent of the respondents are uncertain on the issue.

Kimball County respondents were asked if they thought there was a crime problem in Kimball County. The following table represents those results.

TABLE 10-8. "Do you think there is a crime problem in Kimball County today?"

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	105	40
No	<u>159</u>	<u>60</u>
TOTAL	264	100

The majority of respondents (60 percent) felt that there was no crime problem in Kimball County. However, 40 percent did feel that Kimball County has a crime problem. If the respondents answered yes to the above question, they were asked to list what they felt was the most serious crime problem in Kimball County. Several of the respondents listed more than one crime problem; therefore, the total number of mentioned crime problems is greater than 105. Also, three respondents did not list a crime problem. The total number of mentioned crime problems (141) is therefore based on 102 respondents. The following table represents the total mentioned crime problems.

TABLE 10-9. Total mentioned crime problems.

	<u>Number</u>
Forcible Rape	1
Robbery and Burglary	17
Aggravated Assault	1
Larceny/Theft	22
Vandalism	27
Narcotics/Drugs	46
Alcohol Related Offenses	14
Breakdown in Justice System	9
Other	<u>4</u>
TOTAL	141

The above table shows that narcotics/drugs are thought to be the most serious crime problem. Vandalism is ranked second and larceny/theft and robbery and burglary are ranked third and fourth respectively.

Kimball County respondents were asked how concerned they were about having their house broken into. The results are indicated in Table 10-10.

TABLE 10-10. "Some people worry a great deal about having their houses broken into, and other people are not as concerned. Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not at all concerned about this?"

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Very Concerned	42	16
Somewhat Concerned	168	63
Not At All Concerned	54	20
Undecided	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	267	100

Table 10-10 indicates that the majority (63 percent) are somewhat concerned about having their house broken into. There is no noticeable difference between those who are very concerned (16 percent) and those who are not at all concerned (20 percent). Only one percent was undecided on the issue.

When asked whether they thought it was safe to go out at any time in their neighborhood, respondents replied in the following manner.

TABLE 10-11. "Have there been any times recently when you wanted to go out somewhere in your neighborhood, but stayed at home instead because you thought it would be unsafe to go there?"

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	10	4
No	250	94
Uncertain	<u>5</u>	<u>2</u>
TOTAL	265	100

The vast majority indicated they felt it was safe to go out in their community at night. Only four percent felt it unsafe to go out in their neighborhood some time recently. Two percent were uncertain.

The respondents were then asked whether they had taken any defensive measures in the past year or two with regard to crime. The following results were obtained.

TABLE 10-12. "Have you taken any defensive measures in the past year or two, such as adding additional locks, lights, bars, alarms, purchased weapons, or watchdogs to protect your home?"

	<u>Number</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Yes	65	24
No	202	76
Uncertain	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
TOTAL	267	100

Seventy-six percent of the respondents had not taken any defensive measures; however, 24 percent have taken one or more defensive measure(s) to protect their home against crime in the past year or two. There were no respondents who were uncertain on this issue.

Table 10-13 compares known offenses for Kimball County and Nebraska. The comparison does in fact justify the respondents' feeling that the crime rate in Kimball County is low to average.

10.6 Recreation Facilities

The only permanently flowing stream in Kimball County is Lodgepole Creek whose water quality is rated as fair. From the Wyoming state line to a point just below Kimball Reservoir a limited trout population is maintained through stocking. Oliver Reservoir (250 acres), which is primarily used for irrigation, is the only impoundment open to the public.

TABLE 10.-13. Offenses known for Kimball County and the state of Nebraska -- by calendar year.

	Population ¹ Estimate	Crime Rate ²	Index Offenses Cleared	Type of Offense			Felony Assault	Burglary	Larceny/ Theft	Motor Vehicle
				Mruder	Rape	Robbery				
<u>Kimball</u>										
1974	5,506	25.8	17	0	1	0	3	30	101	7
1975	5,527	26.2	11	0	1	1	2	31	107	3
1976--NA										
<u>Nebraska</u>										
1974	1,543,000	33.24	11,326	55	293	1,406	1,945	11,884	31,464	4,243
1975	1,546,000	35.9	13,117	66	296	1,399	2,220	11,710	36,326	3,558
1976--NA										

Source: Nebraska Uniform Crime Report 1974, 1975.

¹Population estimates found in the Nebraska Uniform Crime Report.

²Known offenses per 1,000 population.

NA = Not Available.

There are tentative plans to develop the reservoir into a constant-level multipurpose recreational facility.

The county has one state wayside area and two rest areas. Located at Oliver Reservoir, the Lodgepole State Wayside Area covers 17 acres, 13 of which are land and four are water. The site has 33 picnic tables, two camping sites, and one boat ramp. The two rest stops are found on the interstate; one is between Kimball and Dix and the other is between Kimball and Bushnell. Both rest stops have the following facilities: shelters; picnic tables; childrens' climber; restrooms; public information center; and informative markers.

The county fair grounds in Kimball include 4-H buildings, animal barns, a rodeo corral, and open grandstand. Each of the three towns in Kimball County has two parks within its town limits. The largest is Gotte Park in Kimball. The focal point of the park is a Titan missile at its center. The park has facilities for horseshoeing, picnicking, tennis, and ice skating. There is also a playground and shelter house. Kimball's second park is known as City Park. A mile out of Kimball on Highway 30 is the Four Winds Recreation Area which is funded one-third by the city of Kimball and two-thirds by the county. Included in the recreation area are a nine-hole golf course, trap shoot area, tennis courts, softball and baseball diamonds, and two Little League diamonds.

The largest park in Dix has picnic tables, three barbeque stands, and a playground area which includes a slide, merry-go-round, swings, a tennis court, basketball court, and a skating pond. The second park has a football field and a baseball diamond. In Bushnell the two parks are adjacent to each other. Between them they have two horseshoe courts, a number of cement benches and tables, and playground equipment.

The available indoor recreation is to be found in Kimball. There is one indoor and one outdoor movie theatre, a bowling alley which also has pool tables, a public library, and a number of restaurants and bars.

10.7 Fire Protection

Each of the three towns have fire departments which cover their town and a corresponding rural area. Equipment is designated as being for either rural or city use but will be used in either location if needed. The districts maintain mutual assistance agreements. Kimball has a total of 40 volunteers and eight vehicles, Dix has 25 volunteers and three vehicles, and Bushnell has 25 volunteers and five vehicles. In 1975, Kimball received 60 fire calls, 55 percent of which were rural. In the same year Dix received 20 calls, 90-95 percent of which were grass fires. Bushnell received nine calls, 80-90 percent of which were grass fires.

10.8 Vital Statistics

10.8.1 Divorce

Table 10-14 shows the number of divorces and annulments for Kimball County from 1972 to 1975. The number of divorces and the divorce rate have been relatively stable since 1973. During the period from 1964 to 1975, divorces in Kimball ranged from a low of six in 1965 to a high of 25 in 1973; the number of divorces, however, fluctuates widely from year to year. The recent decline in divorces in Kimball County is in marked contrast to the year-to-year increase in the number of divorces in Nebraska.

TABLE 10-14. Kimball County divorces and annulments, 1972-1975.

Year	Divorces	Divorce Rate Per 1,000 Population	Annulments
1972	11	2.0	0
1973	25	4.6	0
1974	18	2.7	1
1975	15	2.7	0
Average 1972-1975	17	3.0	0.25

Source: 1974, 1975 Statistical Report of the Bureau of Vital Statistics,
State Department of Health, Lincoln, NE.

10.8.2 Death

The total number of deaths to Kimball County residents has remained fairly constant from 1972, varying from 42 to 39 annually. The total number of deaths in Kimball County (i.e., by place of occurrence) showed a marked drop from 49 in 1972 to 32 in 1974 and then rose to 37 in 1975. The difference between deaths by place of occurrence and by place of residence could be caused by patterns of travel and employment. Interstate 80 passes through Kimball County. Kimball County has also had various influxes of oil and missile workers. It could well be that the period from 1972 to 1974 saw a decline in the number of nonresident workers.

During this same period, the Nebraska crude death rate was at 9.7 percent for 1973 and 1974 and dropped to 9.4 percent for 1975. This represented the lowest Nebraska death rate in 20 years, equalling the 1954 and 1956 rates. At the same time the U.S. crude death rate continued to fall from 9.4 percent (1973) to nine percent (1975). Without

further analysis, it is not possible to tell whether the different rates for Kimball County (as compared to Nebraska and U.S.) are due to age/sex composition differences of the population or whether they reflect "real mortality" differences.

As a point of comparison, in 1975, crude county death rates in Nebraska ranged from a low of 3.2 percent to a high of 21 percent. Table 10-15 shows deaths for Kimball County (by place of residence) distributed according to the 10 leading causes of death in Nebraska.³

In all three years, heart, cancer, cerebrovascular and accidents amounted to more than 70 percent of the deaths to Kimball residents. The 10 leading causes of death remained unchanged from 1973. The change from 1973 to 1974 was in part produced by a procedural change. In 1974, cerebral hemorrhage and other cerebrovascular disease forms were combined when calculating the leading causes of death -- automatically making space for one more cause. Emphysema dropped from the list, while cirrhosis of the liver and suicide jumped into the top 10. No changes, except rankings, occurred between 1974 and 1975.

³The 10 leading causes of death in Nebraska changed between 1973 and 1974. Except for changes in ranking, they remained the same between 1974 and 1975. The causes listed are those for 1974 and 1975.

TABLE 10-15. Ten leading causes of death, Kimball County, Nebraska (by place of residence), and death by place of occurrence.

	1973		1974		1975	
	No. of Deaths	Percent ¹ of Total Deaths	No. of Deaths	Percent ¹ of Total Deaths	No. of Deaths	Percent ¹ of Total Deaths
Heart - All Forms	12	30	12	31	12	30
Cancer - All Forms	11	27.5	8	20	12	30
Cerebrovascular	5	12.5	4	10	3	7.5
Accidents	4	10	4	10	6	15
Pneumonia	--	--	--	--	--	--
Arteriosclerosis	1	2.5	--	--	--	--
Diabetes Mellitus	--	--	1	2	1	2.5
Cirrhosis of Liver	Unknown ²	--	--	--	1	2.5*
Certain Causes of Neonatal Mortality	Unknown ²	--	Unknown ²	--	Unknown ²	--
Suicide	1	2.5	1	2	--	--
Other	<u>6</u>	15	<u>9</u>	23	<u>5</u>	12.5
TOTAL	40		39		40	
Death by Place of Occurrence	39		32		37	

¹Does not add to 100 percent due to rounding.

²These causes are among the top 10 killers in the state but are not listed for the county; as a result, it is not possible to tell whether the county had any deaths attributable to such causes. If it did, they are included under other.

*In 1975, neonatal mortality preceded cirrhosis of the liver.

Source: 1974, 1975: Statistical Report of the Bureau of Vital Statistics, State Department of Health, Lincoln, NE.

ATTACHMENT 1

QUESTIONNAIRE USED IN BUSINESS SURVEY
OF KIMBALL COUNTY, NE

BUSINESS SURVEY QUESTIONNAIRE

(All replies are confidential)

1. In what town is your business located?

2. Does your business have any other locations in the county? (Please list)

_____;

3. Please indicate the type of business at this location (restaurant, motel, construction company, dentist, etc.).

4. Approximately how many persons are employed directly by your business at this location?

_____ full time _____ part time

5. Approximately how many persons were employed by your business one year ago?

_____ full time _____ part time

6. Please compute the average hourly wage paid to your employees in July 1976 and July 1975.*

\$ _____ hour July 1976 \$ _____ hour July 1975

7. What was the range of hourly wages paid to your employees (excluding fringe benefits) in July 1976?

\$ _____ hour minimum \$ _____ hour maximum

8. What was the range of hourly wages paid to your employees in July 1975?

\$ _____ hour minimum \$ _____ hour maximum

9. Approximately what was your total gross volume of business (at this location) in 1975? 1974?

\$ _____ 1975 \$ _____ 1974

10. How many years has this business been under its present ownership?

_____ years at this location _____ years in the county

*Average hourly wage = $\frac{\$ \text{ monthly payroll}}{\# \text{ hours worked}}$

ATTACHMENT 2

QUESTIONNAIRE USED IN HOUSEHOLD SURVEY
OF KIMBALL COUNTY, NE

THE SOCIOECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY
OF KIMBALL COUNTY

IN ORDER TO PROJECT FUTURE SERVICE NEEDS, WE WOULD LIKE YOU TO ANSWER THE FOLLOWING BACKGROUND QUESTIONS.

B-1 First we need to have a list of all of the people who are members of your household (living with you). Not names, just their relationship to you, the respondent (son, daughter, husband, wife, aunt, etc.).

Relationship to You (as the respondent)	Sex (circle)	Age
Yourself	M F	Your _____
_____	M F	_____
_____	M F	_____
_____	M F	_____
_____	M F	_____
_____	M F	_____

(Use additional space on back if necessary.)

B-2 What town in Kimball County do you live in or closest to? _____

B-3 Do you live inside or outside a city limit?

1. Inside _____ 2. Outside _____

B-4 How long have you lived in:

1. The above location _____ (years)
 2. Kimball County _____ (years)
 3. Nebraska _____ (years)

B-5 Where did you (yourself) previously live (city, state)?

B-6 What is your present marital status?

() 1. Married () 3. Divorced/Separated
 () 2. Widowed () 4. Single (never married)

B-7 How many years of schooling have you (yourself) completed? _____ years

B-8 If married, how many years of schooling has your spouse (husband or wife) completed? _____ years

B-9 What is your (yourself) current occupation? (Please be very specific; if semi-retired, indicate part-time work.) _____

B-10 What is your spouse's (husband or wife) current occupation? _____

B-11 What was the approximate total amount of personal income you (you and your spouse) received last year?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1. Under \$4,000 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5. \$12,000-\$13,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2. \$4,000-\$7,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6. \$14,000-\$17,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3. \$8,000-\$9,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> 7. \$18,000-\$21,999 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 4. \$10,000-\$11,999 | <input type="checkbox"/> 8. \$22,000-\$25,999 |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> 9. \$26,000 and over |

WE WOULD LIKE TO ASK YOU A FEW QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR CURRENT HOUSING:

H-1 What type of dwelling unit do you live in?

- ☐ 1. House
- ☐ 2. Apartment
- ☐ 3. Mobile home (trailer)
- ☐ 4. A room in a residential motel, hotel or rooming house
- ☐ 5. A room in the home of a relative or friend
- ☐ 6. Other (please specify) _____

H-2 Do you own or rent your home?

- ☐ 1. Own home
- ☐ 2. Rent home; monthly rent payment _____
- ☐ 3. Rent mobile home and rent space;
Monthly rent of mobile home _____ Monthly rent of space _____
- ☐ 4. I own my mobile home and rent space;
Monthly rent for space _____
- ☐ 5. I own my mobile home and own the space
- ☐ 6. Other (please specify and the fees paid) _____

H-3 Would you prefer to live in some other form of dwelling unit?

- ☐ 1. Yes (please specify) _____
- ☐ 2. No

H-4 What were your reasons for choosing your present housing?

We are interested in your reactions to development. There are no right or wrong answers; we are only interested in your opinions. Please use a range of strongly agree (SA), agree (A), neutral (N), disagree (D), or strongly disagree (SD). Please circle your choice.

A-1	People here now are friendly and co-operative.	SA	A	N	D	SD
A-2	With more development there would be more tax money available for better schools.	SA	A	N	D	SD
A-3	With more development there would be more jobs available so that young people would be able to remain here rather than having to move away.	SA	A	N	D	SD
A-4	If there were more development people would be less united and friendly because of the influx of many newcomers.	SA	A	N	D	SD
A-5	Development usually causes an increase in crime and illegal drug use.	SA	A	N	D	SD
A-6	With more development we would have better community services such as improved health care.	SA	A	N	D	SD
A-7	New development usually causes the incomes for local people to improve.	SA	A	N	D	SD
A-8	As badly as we need new industry and jobs, we cannot afford to sacrifice our clean air and beautiful scenery to attain them.	SA	A	N	D	SD
A-9	Industries should be forced to shut down if they refuse to meet government pollution standards.	SA	A	N	D	SD
A-10	Even if industry is causing substantial pollution, it should not be forced to stop operations if it would put people out of work.	SA	A	N	D	SD
A-11	Despite the possibility of some damage to the environment, the nation should proceed with industrial development.	SA	A	N	D	SD
A-12	Increased population and economic growth should be encouraged, because it would mean a better selection of goods and services.	SA	A	N	D	SD
A-13	Land should be zoned for specific uses such as residential, commercial, industrial or agricultural.	SA	A	N	D	SD

A-14 More residents in Kimball County would lower the quality of hunting and fishing.

SA A N D SD

A-15 In times of personal crisis, there are persons in this community that are willing to help you.

SA A N D SD

A-16 There is conflict between the different factions (groups) in this community.

SA A N D SD

A-17 Overall, there is a friendly relationship between the community merchants and the people.

SA A N D SD

A-18 This community is a good place to bring up your children.

SA A N D SD

A-19 Preventing crime is the job of the police, not the average citizen.

SA A N D SD

A-20 What is your feeling about future economic development in Kimball County?

() 1. No more growth is needed

() 2. A moderate level of growth would be good

() 3. As much growth as can be attracted is desirable

() 4. No opinion

A-21 What is the maximum number of residents that you would like to see in Kimball County 20 years from now?

() 1. About the same as now (approximately 6,000)

() 2. Less than present population; please indicate approximately how many _____

() 3. More than present population; please indicate approximately how many _____

A-22 Please rank the following types of economic development in order of your preference, one through five. (one = most desirable, five = least desirable)

() A. Light industry

() B. Heavy industry

() C. Agricultural development

() D. Recreational development

() E. Business areas for retail trade

Below are listed a number of public services offered to citizens residing in Kimball County. Would you please indicate how satisfied you are with each of the listed services. Please use a range of extremely satisfied (ES), satisfied (S), neutral (N), dissatisfied (D), or extremely dissatisfied (ED), or not applicable (NA) (please circle your choice).

	<u>ES</u>	<u>S</u>	<u>N</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>ED</u>	<u>NA</u>
S-1 Grade Schools	ES	S	N	D	ED	NA
S-2 Junior High School	ES	S	N	D	ED	NA
S-3 Senior High School	ES	S	N	D	ED	NA
S-4 Police Protection	ES	S	N	D	ED	NA
S-5 Sheriff Protection	ES	S	N	D	ED	NA
S-6 Mail Services	ES	S	N	D	ED	NA
S-7 Hospital Services	ES	S	N	D	ED	NA
S-8 Local Physicians	ES	S	N	D	ED	NA
S-9 Local Dentists	ES	S	N	D	ED	NA
S-10 Ambulance Service	ES	S	N	D	ED	NA
S-11 Telephone Service	ES	S	N	D	ED	NA
S-12 Electrical Service	ES	S	N	D	ED	NA
S-13 Shopping Facilities	ES	S	N	D	ED	NA
S-14 Fire Protection	ES	S	N	D	ED	NA
S-15 County Government	ES	S	N	D	ED	NA
S-16 Social Services and Welfare Programs	ES	S	N	D	ED	NA
S-17 Mental Health Services	ES	S	N	D	ED	NA
S-18 Religious Services/Church	ES	S	N	D	ED	NA
S-19 Household Services (plumbers, printers, electricians, etc.)	ES	S	N	D	ED	NA

THE FOLLOWING SECTION CONTAINS QUESTIONS ABOUT CRIME AND SAFETY IN
KIMBALL COUNTY

C-1 Do you think that there is more crime, less crime, or the same amount of crime in your community as there is in other communities in Nebraska?

- ☐ 1. More crime
- ☐ 2. Same amount of crime
- ☐ 3. Less crime
- ☐ 4. Uncertain

C-2 Would you say that the crime rate in Kimball County is high, average or low?

- ☐ 1. High
- ☐ 2. Average
- ☐ 3. Low
- ☐ 4. Undecided

C-3 Are most of the people who commit crimes in Kimball County newcomers, or are they people who have lived in Kimball County for some time?

- ☐ 1. Newcomers
- ☐ 2. Have lived in this community for some time
- ☐ 3. Uncertain

C-4 Do you think there is a crime problem in Kimball County?

yes _____ no _____

If so, what do you think the most serious crime problem in Kimball County is today? _____

C-5 Do you think that your neighbors would report most crimes to the authorities if they knew about such crimes?

- ☐ 1. Yes
- ☐ 2. No
- ☐ 3. Undecided

C-6 Some people worry a great deal about having their homes broken into, and other people are not as concerned. Are you very concerned, somewhat concerned, or not at all concerned about this?

- ☐ 1. Very concerned
- ☐ 2. Somewhat concerned
- ☐ 3. Not at all concerned
- ☐ 4. Uncertain

C-7 Have there been any times recently when you wanted to go out somewhere in your neighborhood, but stayed at home instead because you thought it would be unsafe to go there?

- ☐ 1. Yes
- ☐ 2. No
- ☐ 3. Undecided

C-8 Have you taken any defensive measures in the past year or two, such as adding additional locks, lights, bars, alarms, purchased weapons or watchdogs to protect your home?

- ☐ 1. Yes
- ☐ 2. No
- ☐ 3. Undecided

C-9 If you were a victim of a crime or were aware that a crime had been committed, is there any reason why you would not report it to the authorities? _____

We welcome any additional comments you would like to make. (Use additional space on back if necessary.)

